

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4 through 19 remain pending in this application. Claims 2 and 5 through 11 have been allowed. Claims 12 through 19 stand withdrawn. In response to the non-final Office Action dated September 11, 2006, claim 4 has been amended. Care has been taken to avoid adding new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lunn, of record. In response, claim 4 is amended. The rejection, insofar as it may be considered with respect to claim 4 as now amended, is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action reads the claimed elements of Fig. 1 of Lunn as follows. Transistor 101 is read on the first claimed transistor and transistor 102 is read on the second claimed transistor. Transistors 134 and 135 are read as first and second variable impedance devices, and resistors 130 and 131 are read as first and second impedance devices. Resistor 114 is read as the resistive element connected between a junction between the first and second variable impedance devices.

According to the above reading on Lunn, the junction between the transistors 134 and 135 of Lunn (read on the first and second variable impedance devices) is at the same potential as the second potential (the junction between resistors 130 and 132, which are at the other sides of the third terminals), because the above-identified junction and second potential are directly connected to each other. The resistive element 114 of Lunn is not connected between the junction and the second potential.

Claim 4 has been amended to more explicitly clarify the distinction between the invention and Lunn by the addition of the following recitation:

said junction point between said first variable impedance device and said second variable impedance device has a potential

different from said second potential due to a voltage drop caused by a current flowing through said resistive element.

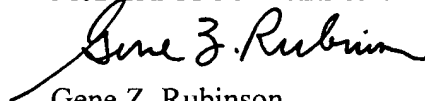
Looking to Fig. 6 of the present application, for example, the third terminals of transistors 1 and 2 are connected to ground through resistors 5 and 6. Ground is the exemplification of the claimed second potential. The junction N3 between transistors 11 and 12 is connected to ground through resistor 13. The potential at N3, which corresponds to the claimed junction point recited above, differs from the ground potential by an amount determined by the product of the current flowing through resistor 13 and the resistance value of the resistor.

As the junction between resistors 130 and 131 is at the same potential as the potential at the junction between 109 and 110 of Lunn, Lunn neither meets the claimed requirements nor suggests modification of the illustrated circuit that would result in the invention claimed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 4 is not anticipated by Lunn. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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